



News Release

Arizona Department of Public Safety

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November 23, 2005

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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WINTER DRIVING TIPS

The Arizona Department of Public Safety is urging motorists to drive smart in winter conditions as we approach the winter holiday season. If motorists take certain precautions and drive smarter, the number of collisions associated with winter weather can be greatly reduced.

Motorists should begin with proper planning before driving into areas of the state or outside Arizona known to experience winter driving conditions. Weather and road conditions should be checked even if the travel is routine. Conditions can change rapidly so the need to prepare alternate routes is important. Any small problems you may experience on a trip in good weather will be a bigger problem during inclement weather.

Your winter check list should include:

- Cleaning off all snow, ice and frost from windows and mirrors.
- Make sure all vehicle lights are working and use your headlights when it's snowing.
- Keep wiper blades in good condition and keep windshield washer fluids levels full.
- Check tires for proper inflation and tread wear to include the spare tire. If chains may be required, take them along.
- Carry emergency equipment in your vehicle such as water, food, flares, shovel, flashlight, jumper cables, first aid kit, blankets, boots, gloves and warm headgear and bags of sand or kitty litter for traction.
- Let a responsible party know your route of travel and your anticipated arrival time. Check in with them often and keep them updated.

Motorist must understand that they cannot drive the same in winter conditions as they would in the summer.

- Limit travel in winter road conditions to essential trips only.
- Stay off roads when winter warnings are issued.
- Any trip may take twice as long. Plan for it and leave earlier.
- Plan your route to avoid steep mountainous areas and lightly traveled roads.
- Slick pavement means reduced traction. Slow down! Excessive speed will cause loss of control. Conditions will require slower speeds than posted.
- Increase following distance.
- Avoid quick acceleration, hard braking and fast turns. If your car has ***anti-lock brakes***, do not pump the brake pedal.
- Use extreme caution in morning hours where the highway is shaded and on bridges. Remember bridges and overpasses freeze first.
- Always know your location and call 911 if you need emergency assistance.
- Before any trip, motorist should call 511 or visit www.az511.com to check on travel restrictions.

The Arizona Department of Public Safety wishes everyone a safe and wonderful holiday season!

DON'T DRINK AND DRIVE!
BUCKLE UP!